

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (currently amended) A head gimbal assembly for a disk drive, the head gimbal assembly comprising:
  - a trace suspension assembly backing layer formed of an electrically conductive material, the trace suspension assembly backing layer including:
    - a load beam section;
    - a gimbal coupled to the load beam section; and
    - a ground trace disposed adjacent the gimbal and extending along the load beam section;
  - a dielectric layer disposed upon the trace suspension assembly backing layer adjacent to the gimbal;~~and~~
  - a slider supported by the gimbal, the slider being electrically connected to the ground trace for electrically grounding the slider; and
  - read and write traces disposed upon the dielectric layer with the dielectric layer between the read and write traces and the trace suspension assembly backing layer, the read and write traces being disposed in electrical communication with the slider.
8. (original) The head gimbal assembly of Claim 7 further includes a load beam, the trace suspension assembly backing layer is supported by the load beam.
9. (original) The head gimbal assembly of Claim 7 wherein the trace suspension assembly backing layer is attached to the load beam with a non-conductive epoxy disposed between the trace suspension assembly backing layer and the load beam.

10. (withdrawn) The head gimbal assembly of Claim 7 further includes a via disposed through the dielectric layer, the slider is electrically connected to the trace suspension assembly backing layer through the via.
11. (canceled)
12. (currently amended) A disk drive comprising:  
a disk drive base; and  
a rotary actuator rotatably coupled to the disk drive base, the rotary actuator includes a head gimbal assembly, the head gimbal assembly comprising:  
a trace suspension assembly backing layer formed of an electrically conductive material, the trace suspension assembly backing layer including:  
a load beam section;  
a gimbal coupled to the load beam section; and  
a ground trace disposed adjacent the gimbal and extending along the load beam section;  
a dielectric layer disposed upon the trace suspension assembly backing layer adjacent to the gimbal; ~~and~~  
a slider supported by the gimbal, the slider being electrically connected to the ground trace for electrically grounding the slider; and  
read and write traces disposed upon the dielectric layer with the dielectric layer between the read and write traces and the trace suspension assembly backing layer, the read and write traces being disposed in electrical communication with the slider.
13. (canceled)
14. (canceled)
15. (canceled)
16. (canceled)
17. (canceled)
18. (canceled)
19. (new) The head gimbal assembly of Claim 7 wherein the read and write traces comprise copper and the ground trace comprises stainless steel.

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20. (new) The head gimbal assembly of Claim 12 wherein the read and write traces comprise copper and the ground trace comprises stainless steel.